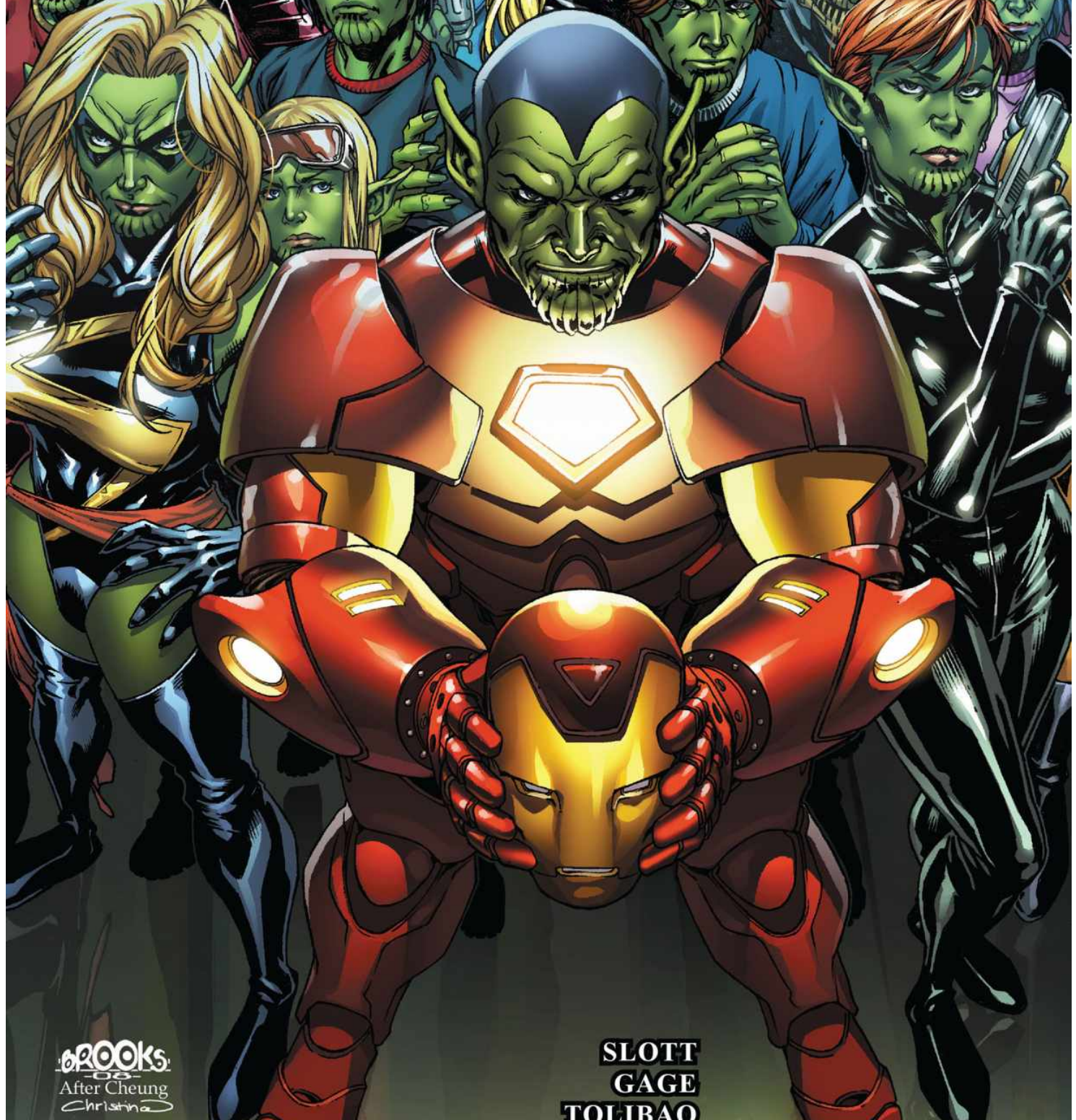


MARVEL[®]
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SECRET INVASION

AVENGERS

THE INITIATIVE



brooks
After Cheung
Christina

SLOTT
GAGE
TOLIBAO

AVENGERS THE INITIATIVE

AFTER STAMFORD, CONNECTICUT WAS DESTROYED DURING A TELEVISED FIGHT BETWEEN THE NEW WARRIORS AND A GROUP OF DANGEROUS VILLAINS, A FEDERAL SUPERHUMAN REGISTRATION ACT WAS PASSED. ALL INDIVIDUALS POSSESSING PARANORMAL ABILITIES MUST NOW REGISTER WITH THE GOVERNMENT. TONY STARK, A.K.A. IRON MAN, HAS BEEN APPOINTED DIRECTOR OF S.H.I.E.L.D., THE INTERNATIONAL PEACEKEEPING FORCE. HE HAS SET IN MOTION THE INITIATIVE, A PLAN FOR TRAINING AND POLICING SUPER HEROES IN THIS BRAVE NEW WORLD, INTENDED TO POSITION A LOCAL SUPER HERO TEAM IN EACH OF AMERICA'S FIFTY STATES.



YELLOWJACKET
DIRECTOR



WAR MACHINE
INSTRUCTOR



GAUNTLET
DRILL-SERGEANT



3-D MAN
GRADUATE



CRUSADER
CADET

SECRET INVASION

The newest recruits of Camp Hammond have taken the base, butting heads with their instructors and learning the ropes. They'd better learn fast, however, as Earth is under siege — the shape-shifting Skrulls have infiltrated our world with their eyes on taking Earth as their own! They've sent spies into every facet of the planet's defenses, including the Initiative itself.

Hank Pym, a.k.a. Yellowjacket, has been replaced by a Skrull, and for months he's been using his position to seed Skrull agents into every Initiative team across the country. Little does he know, he may have been found out by one of the Initiative's new cadets: Crusader, who has a secret of his own...

Meanwhile, recent graduate 3-D Man has teleported to Initiative HQ with news of the secret invasion. But who can he trust? When 3-D Man tries to use his Skrull-detecting-goggles to reveal the truth, Crusader reverses the polarity so humans appear as Skrulls, and Skrulls appear as human. From 3-D Man's POV, it's his worst nightmare: the entirety of Camp Hammond has been overrun by Skrulls! Now it's up to the only humans left — 3-D Man, Yellowjacket...and Crusader!

Camp Hammond.



3-D MAN?
WHAT ARE
YOU ON
ABOUT?
AN ALIEN
INVASION?

SOMETHING
ABOUT SHAPE-
SHIFTERS?

UH, NO.
IT WAS A
TEST.
THE POINT
MEN, MY TEAM
IN HAWAII, WE WERE
RUNNING A DRILL. IF
THERE WERE AN
INVASION...

EMERGENCY
EVACUATION
THROUGH DEVIL-
SLAYER'S CLOAK...
BACK TO HERE...
THE MAIN
BASE

UNDERSTOOD.
I KNOW HOW
DISORIENTING THE
SHADOW CLOAK
GETS.
THANKS...
HELL-CAT



ARE YOU SURE YOU'RE
OKAY, 3-D MAN?
YOU STILL SEEM...
DISORIENTED.

THIS IS THE MOMENT
OF TRUTH. HE'S
LOOKING RIGHT
AT ME. HE EITHER
KNOWS I'M A
SKRULL OR--
NOT HERE, CAPDET.
FOLLOW ME.



THIS'LL SOUND CRAZY,
CRUSADER, BUT THESE
GOGGLES I'M WEARING,
THEY'RE FROM THE
ORIGINAL 3-D MAN, AND
THEY LET ME SEE SKRULLS.
DO YOU KNOW WHAT
THOSE ARE?

YES.

WELL, AS
FAR AS I CAN
SEE, WE MIGHT BE
THE ONLY TWO
HUMANS LEFT
ON BASE.



BY THE
THRONEWORLD!
IT HONORED MY
FREEDOM RING, IT WARPED
REALITY, CHANGED THE
POLARITY ON HIS
GOGGLES...

HE'S SEEING
SKRULLS AS HUMANS
AND HUMANS AS SKRULLS.
BUT THE RING ONLY
WORKS FOR A THIRTY-
FOOT RADIUS...

WE NEED
TO GET OUT.
WARN SOMEONE.
THE AVENGERS, THE
FF. C'MON, YOU'RE
STICKING
WITH ME.

UH...



WAIT. THAT COULD LOOK... SUSPICIOUS. TAKE ONE OF THE QUINJETS. PUT SOME DISTANCE BETWEEN YOU AND CAMP HAMMOND.

I'LL STAY BEHIND AND SMOOTH THINGS OUT. BUY YOU SOME TIME.

YOU'RE A BRAVE MAN, CRUSADER. KEEP YOUR HEAD DOWN... I'LL BE BACK AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.



IF I CAN JUST GET OUT OF HIS LINE OF SIGHT...



COME ON, COME ON...



MADE IT!

MADE IT!



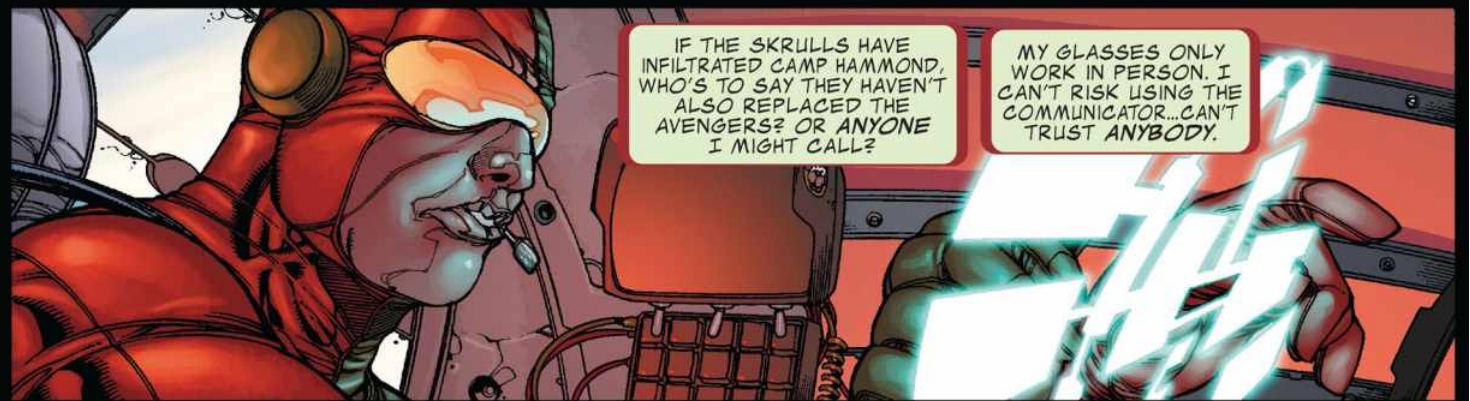
TOWER ONE CALLING QUINJET, YOUR FLIGHT IS UNAUTHORIZED. IDENTIFY AND STATE YOUR MISSION OR BE SHOT DOWN. OVER.

TOWER, THIS IS 3-D MAN. I HAVE INITIATIVE TEAM LEADER STATUS. I'M AFRAID THE PURPOSE OF THIS TRIP IS CLASSIFIED. WILL CALL IN AS SITUATION ALLOWS. OVER.

SECURITY STATUS VERIFIED



OKAY, DELROY,
YOU GOT OUT.
NOW WHAT?



IF THE SKRULLS HAVE
INFILTRATED CAMP HAMMOND,
WHO'S TO SAY THEY HAVEN'T
ALSO REPLACED THE
AVENGERS? OR ANYONE
I MIGHT CALL?

MY GLASSES ONLY
WORK IN PERSON. I
CAN'T RISK USING THE
COMMUNICATOR...CAN'T
TRUST ANYBODY.



WAIT--THERE IS SOMEONE. CHUCK
CHANDLER GAVE ME THESE GOGGLES. AND
NO ONE HAS MORE EXPERIENCE FIGHTING
SKRULLS THAN THE ORIGINAL 3-D MAN.

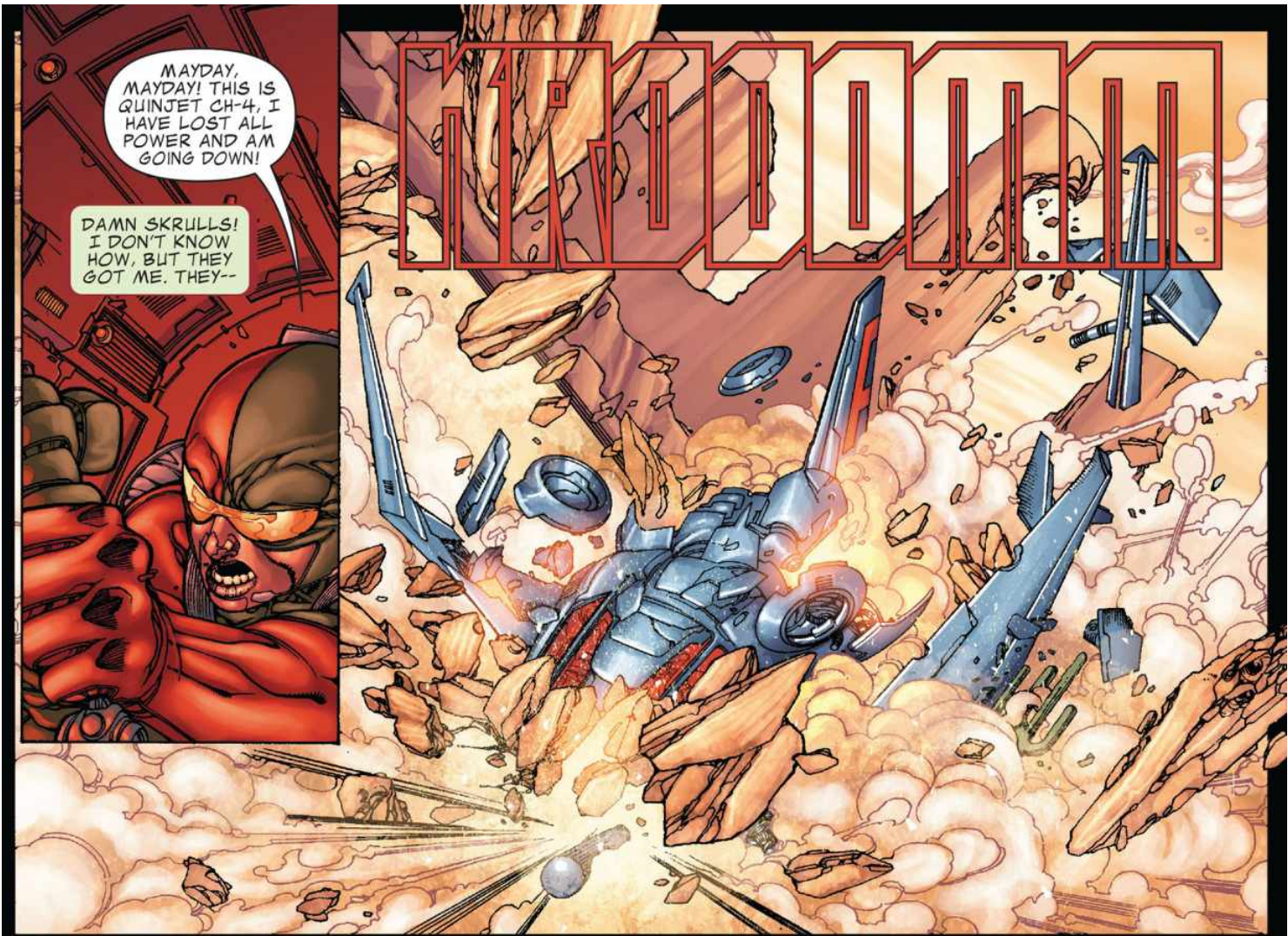
AT TOP SPEED,
I CAN REACH
NEW MEXICO IN
AN HOUR...

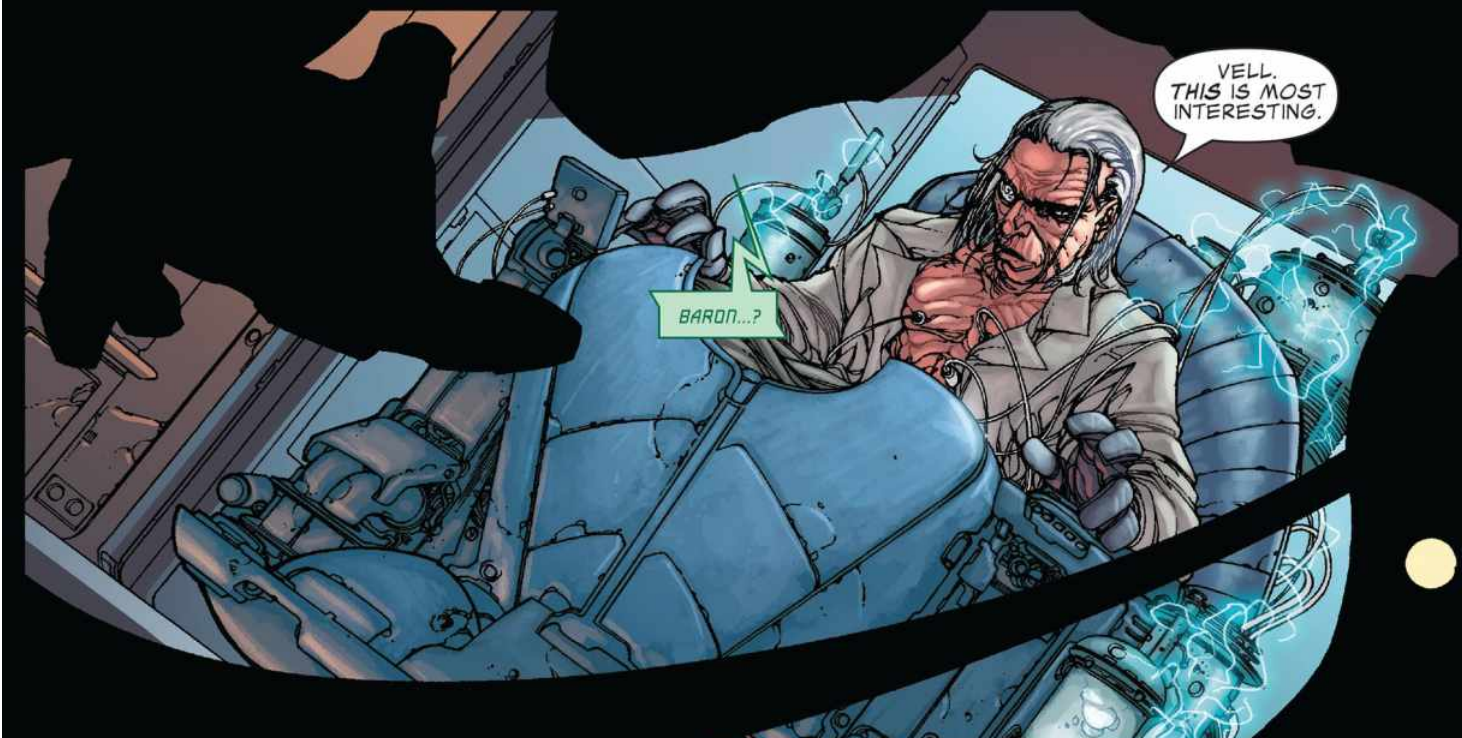


New Mexico.



ALERT. STARKTECH
MALFUNCTION. ALIEN
VIRUS DETECTED.
ALER--SQUEE



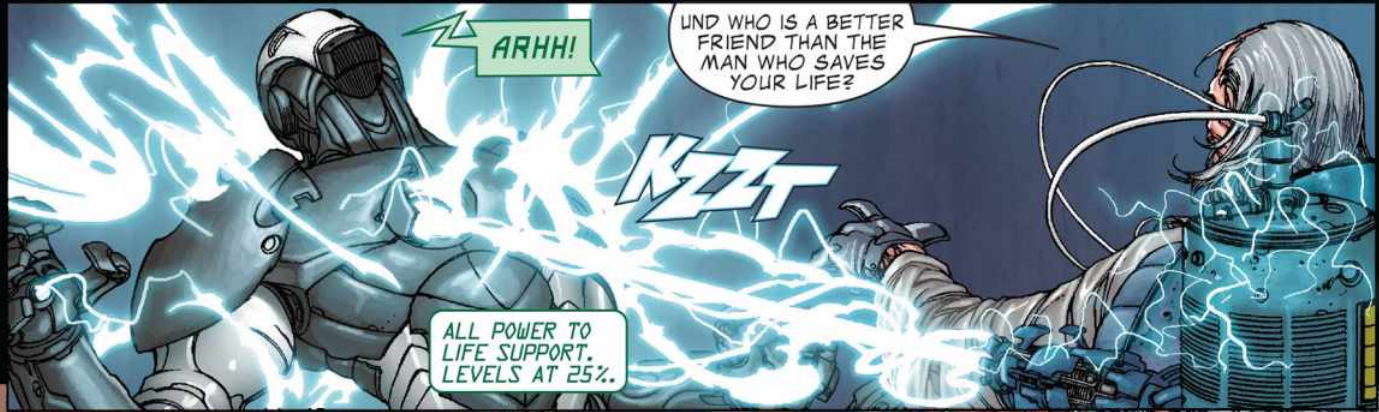




GO TO HELL...
BLITZSCHLAG, I'D
RATHER DIE... THAN
BEG FOR HELP...
FROM A NAZI.

YOU VOUND
ME, HERR RHODES.
SINCE I HAFF BEEN
IN AMERIKA, I HAFF
VORKED VITH MANY OF
THE COLORED, UND
HAFF I EVER
COMPLAINED?

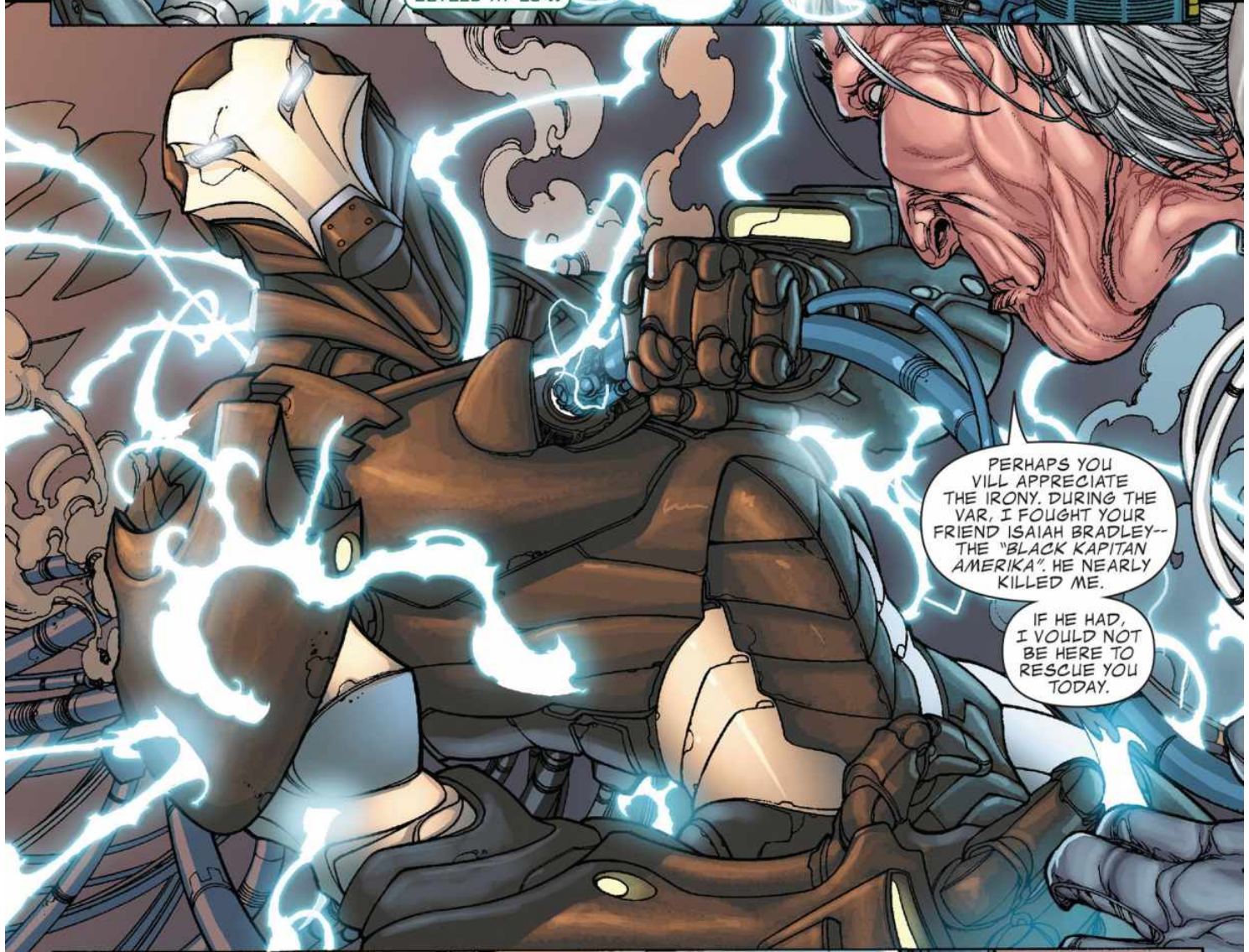
BESIDES,
VITH HERR GYRICH
GONE FROM THE
INITIATIVE, IT
BEHOOVES ME TO
HAFF MORE...
FRIENDS.



ARHH!

UND WHO IS A BETTER
FRIEND THAN THE
MAN WHO SAVES
YOUR LIFE?

ALL POWER TO
LIFE SUPPORT.
LEVELS AT 25%.



PERHAPS YOU
VILL APPRECIATE
THE IRONY. DURING
THE VAR, I FOUGHT YOUR
FRIEND ISAIAH BRADLEY--
THE "BLACK KAPITAN
AMERIKA". HE NEARLY
KILLED ME.

IF HE HAD,
I VOULD NOT
BE HERE TO
RESCUE YOU
TODAY.



VHAT
A HAPPY
OUTCOME FOR
ALL OF US,
EH?



IS THIS
A DRILL, MR.
GAUNTLET?

AIN'T
A DRILL,
GORILLA
GIRL.

YOU GUYS
REALLY NEED
TO GET BACK
TO YOUR
BARRACKS.

BUT
DIAMONDBACK,
THERE'S NO
POWER, THERE'S
NO--

WE
KNOW.

SOMETHING'S GOING
ON! IF SOMETHING'S
GOING ON YOU
SHOULD TELL
US, WE'RE--

OKAY!

LISTEN VERY CAREFULLY...
POWER'S OUT, STARKTECH IS
OUT, WE CAN'T GET S.H.I.E.L.D.,
TONY STARK, THE AVENGERS,
OR ANYONE ELSE ON
THE HORN.

WE DON'T
KNOW WHAT'S
HAPPENING,
CRUSADER.

SERIOUSLY?

YELLOW-
JACKET?

GUYS!

WHAT'S GOING
ON?

THE CITY'S
UNDER ATTACK!
THE AVENGERS
ARE--ARE
MISSING!

WHO'S
ATTACKING?

S.H.I.E.L.D.
IS DOWN!
EVERYTHING
IS--!

WHO'S
ATTACKING?

ALIENS!

WHAT IS "PYM" UP TO? I
WAS CERTAIN HE WAS SOME
KIND OF SKRULL IN A
FORM THAT EVEN I
COULD NOT--

WAIT. MY RING
WAS ABLE TO DISTORT
THE FREQUENCY OF 3-D
WAVES--



I DON'T KNOW WHO EXACTLY. I JUST--I JUST SAW THE SHIP OVER NEW YORK. I-I-I-I CAN'T FIND ANYONE!

GET THE KIDS SUITED UP. IT'S TIME.

BY THE THRONE WORLD! HE IS A SKRULL! BUT HOW? ALL THESE EARTH HEROES WITH THEIR GREAT GIFTS...

...HOW CAN THEY NOT KNOW? AND HOW CAN I TELL THEM WITHOUT GIVING MYSELF AWAY?



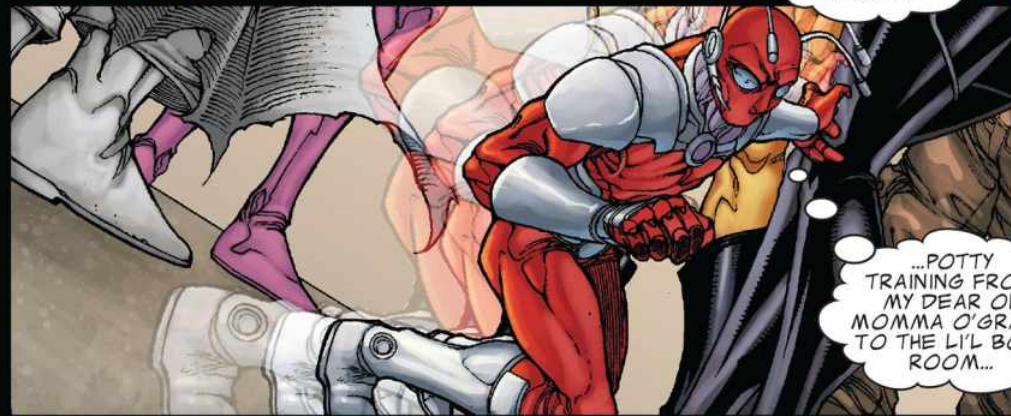
WE'RE GOING IN?

GUYS... THIS IS IT. THIS IS WHAT YOU'VE BEEN TRAINED FOR.

ALIEN INVASION. YEAH, RIGHT. I SEEM TO REMEMBER SOME OTHER TRAINING I GOT...



...AND SOMETHING TELLS THIS 'LIL BOY' THAT HE'LL BE IN THERE FOR SOME TIME.



...POTTY TRAINING FROM MY DEAR OL MOMMA O'GRADY. TO THE LIL BOYS ROOM...



ALL RIGHT, PLAYTIME'S OVER. LOOKS LIKE WE GOT OURSELVES AN OMEGA LEVEL THREAT! THAT MEANS ONE THING, PEOPLE:

AVENGERS ASSEMBLE!

FINALLY, TO HEAR THAT CALL...

...BUT I NEVER THOUGHT IT WOULD BE FOR SUCH A CAUSE. A



THIS IS WHAT I TRAINED YOU FOR! ANYONE PLANS TO EMBARRASS ME, YOU'D BEST JUMP OUT RIGHT NOW! YOU GOT A BETTER CHANCE OF LIVIN' THROUGH THAT THAN IF YOU PISS ME OFF!

HE INSPIRES HIS WARRIORS WELL. I USED TO BELIEVE ALL HUMANS WERE WEAK... SOFT.

BUT IT SEEMS COMBAT INSTRUCTORS ARE THE SAME THROUGHOUT THE UNIVERSE...

The Skrull Armada.
Some Time Ago.

FORM UP, CURSE YOU! PATHETIC HATCHLINGS! YOU MOVE LIKE PREGNANT T'NAJA BEASTS!



SKRULL
WARRIORS! YOUR
ASSIGNMENTS HAVE ARRIVED.
IN MOMENTS, YOU'LL DISCOVER
HOW YOU WILL BE PRIVILEGED
TO SERVE THE
EMPIRE.

TAKE PRIDE!
YOUR SURVIVAL
PROVES YOUR STRENGTH.
UNLIKE THE WEAKLINGS
WHO PERISHED IN TRAINING,
YOUR DEATHS WILL BE
GLORIOUS--



--IN SERVICE TO OUR HOLY CAUSE.
THIS WAR *MUST* BE WON. IT IS
FORETOLD WE WILL WIN, AND YOU
SHALL ACHIEVE *IMMORTALITY*
BY AIDING IN THAT
VICTORY!

HE
LOVES YOU.
DISMISSED.



HAH! I'VE
BEEN JUDGED
WORTHY
INDEED!

I'M
ASSIGNED TO A
NEW SECRET OPERATIONS
SQUAD, HANDPICKED BY
THE EMPRESS HERSELF.
TOP THAT,
Z'REG!



WITH
PLEASURE, K'RTEM.
I'VE BEEN ENTRUSTED
WITH THE MOST IMPORTANT
DUTY IN THE SKRULL
EMPIRE.

I'M TO
TRAVEL TO
EARTH AND SPY
ON THE HATED
AVENGERS!



PLEASED WITH YOURSELF,
ARE YOU? WELL, WHILE YOU
SIT IDLE ON THAT BACKWATER
PLANET, NEVER FORGET
WHO *GAVE* YOU THAT
SCAR--

--AND
WHICH OF US
IS THE BETTER
SKRULL.

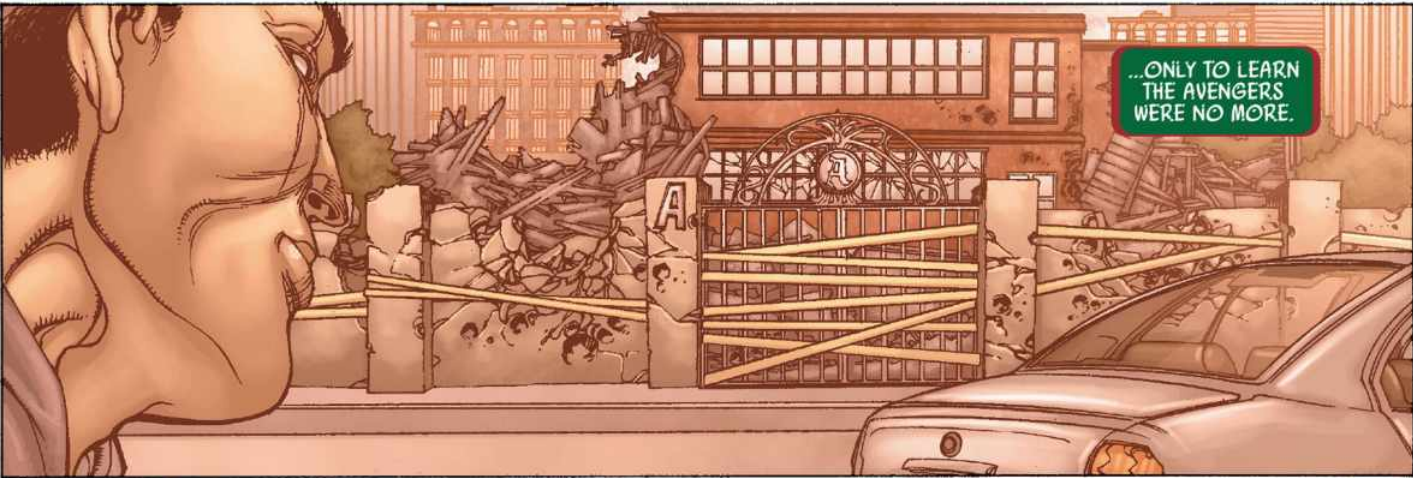
THAT, K'RTEM, IS
SOMETHING
I SHALL NEVER
FORGET.



BUT NEITHER MY
BRAVADO NOR MY
TRAINING PREPARED
ME FOR WHAT I FOUND
WHEN I ARRIVED.



I HAD COME
TO SPY ON THE
AVENGERS...



...ONLY TO LEARN
THE AVENGERS
WERE NO MORE.



MY COVER WAS DEEP AND WELL
ESTABLISHED. I HAD NO MEANS OF
CONTACTING HOME. NO IDEA WHERE
OTHERS LIKE MYSELF COULD BE FOUND.

ALTERNATIVES HAD
NEVER BEEN DISCUSSED.
I HAD BUT ONE PURPOSE:
TO GATHER INTELLIGENCE
ON THE AVENGERS...



...BY
ANY MEANS
NECESSARY.



OMIGOD, I AM, LIKE,
A TOTAL AVENGERS
FANGIRL. THAT DVD'S
ONE OF MY FAVES--
LOTS OF BONUS
FEATURES.

DON'T
FORGET YOUR
CANDY. YOU GET
FREE CANDY WITH
YOUR FIRST
RENTAL.

AND
WHAT...
"CANDY"...
DO YOU
PREFER?

FOR
WATCHING THE
AVENGERS? RED
VINES. THERE IS NO
SUBSTITUTE





I'D BELIEVED IT WAS MY DESTINY TO HELP CONQUER EARTH. BUT *ANOTHER* DESTINY SEEMED TO REVEAL ITSELF THE DAY I DISCOVERED ONE OF MY NEIGHBORS WAS A SUPER HERO.



AN INEXPERIENCED YOUTH CALLED *FREEDOM RING*. HE POSSESSED THE POWER TO ALTER REALITY--WITHIN A LIMITED RANGE-- THANKS TO A RING FORGED FROM A *COSMIC CUBE*.



I'D NEVER SEEN SUCH A BEING IN PERSON BEFORE. IT WAS INTOXICATING! PERHAPS THAT'S WHAT PROMPTED MY IMPULSIVE DECISION TO REVEAL MY *TRUE SELF* TO HIM.



I TOLD HIM I'D RENOUNCED MY PEOPLE... EMBRACED EARTH. AND I SPOKE THE TRUTH. LIKE A YOUNGLING WITH HIS FIRST FEMALE, I WAS SMITTEN.



YET I KNEW HE AND THOSE LIKE HIM WERE MARKED FOR DESTRUCTION. THAT, IF THEY WERE TO SURVIVE, THEY WOULD ONE DAY NEED TO *FIGHT*.

SO I TRAINED HIM. DIFFERENTLY THAN MY INSTRUCTOR HAD TRAINED ME. I STILL BELIEVED HUMANS WERE WEAK, SO I GUIDED WITH A FAR SOFTER HAND.



PERHAPS *TOO* SOFT. HAD I BEEN HARSHER, MY FRIEND MIGHT BE ALIVE TODAY.



I HONORED HIM IN MY PEOPLE'S MANNER. IF YOUR SKRULL-BROTHER FALLS IN BATTLE, YOU

...AND FIGHT ON IN HIS NAME. DOING SO FOUND ME BATTLING TITANNUS, AN ENHANCED SKRULL. BUT I WAS NOT BETRAYING MY PEOPLE. TITANNUS WAS CONTROLLED BY HUMANS.

I HAD NO COMPUNCTIONS ABOUT ALLYING MYSELF WITH EARTHLINGS...AND WHAT EARTHLINGS!

MERE MONTHS BEFORE, I'D THRILLED TO HIS EXPLOITS ON TELEVISION. AND NOW CAPTAIN AMERICA WAS SHAKING MY HAND!

THAT WAS AN IMPRESSIVE JOB OUT THERE, SON. IMPRESSIVE.

I WANT

WHEN SUPERHUMAN REGISTRATION BEGAN, I EAGERLY ENLISTED. THIS WAS MY DREAM--TO BE ACCEPTED AS ONE OF THEM! TO FIGHT AT THEIR SIDE!

LOOK ALIVE, PEOPLE! TARGET SITE'S DIRECTLY BELOW!

AND NOW THAT DREAM HAS COME TRUE...

WELCOME TO TIMES SQUARE. YOU WANNA SIGHTSEE

THEN IT'S



MAY BOTH
THIS WORLD AND
MY HOMEWORLD
FORGIVE ME!

TEAMS
OF THREE
AND END IT
FAST!

HOLD
THE LINE TILL
THE CAVALRY
COMES!



I MUST...
I MUST DO
SOMETHING!
YOU!
DON'T
MOVE!



I'LL
SAVE
YOU!

THANK
YOU! I THINK
HE'S HURT.



DON'T
WORRY. I'LL
GET ALL
OF YOU TO
SAFETY.
AS LONG
AS I'M HERE,
NO INNOCENT
FALLS TODAY.



NO MERCY,
CADETS! THIS
AIN'T A BANK
ROBBERY, THIS
IS WAR!

AND THAT
MEANS THE ONLY
GOOD SKRULL
IS A DEAD
SKRULL!





K'RTEM?



KASHH



HAH!
FIRST BLOOD
TO ME...

SSHH



...MY
FRIEND.

WELL STRUCK.
I'LL WEAR THE
SCAR WITH PRIDE,
NO MATTER WHAT
FORM I TAKE,
AS A BADGE OF
HONOR.



WHEN OTHERS
ASK WHY, I SHALL
TELL THEM I RECEIVED
IT FROM THE GREAT
WARRIOR K'RTEM...
AND THEY WILL
UNDERSTAND.

WEAR IT
WELL, SKRULL-
BROTHER.

HE LOVES
YOU.

HE LOVES
YOU.



NO! YOU'LL
GIVE ME AWAY!
YOU CAN'T!

SKUTCHH!







DAMN, CADETS! YOU ARE MOTHER-LUVIN' SKRULL-KILLIN' MACHINES!

EARS UP! BATTLEFIELD COMMISSIONS FOR EVERY LAST ONE A'YOU!



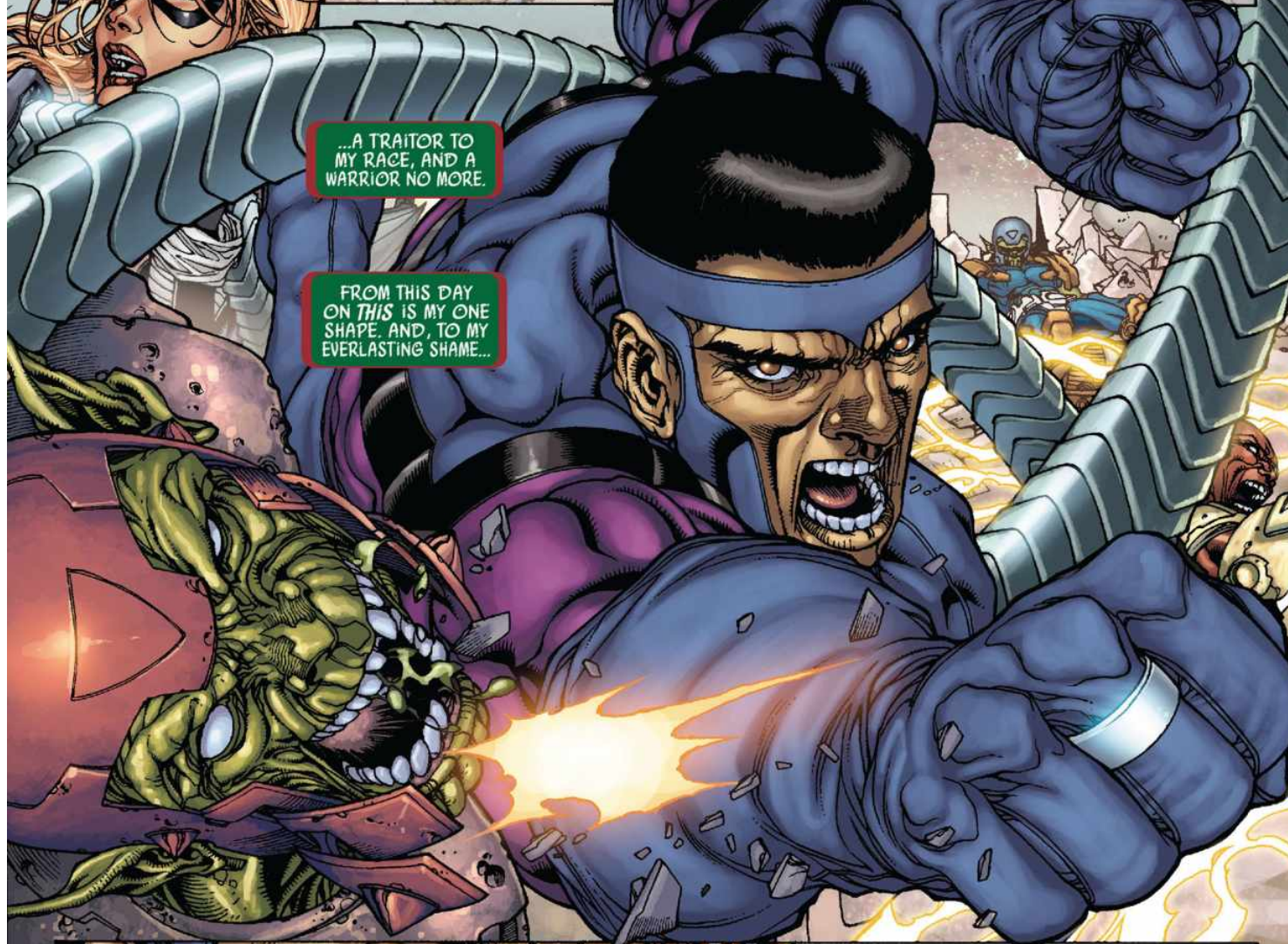
THIS IS YOUR HERO'S LICENSE RIGHT HERE! Y'HEAR ME?!

TODAY'S THE DAY YOU ALL BECAME HEROES!

I AM A HERO OF EARTH...

...A TRAITOR TO MY RACE, AND A WARRIOR NO MORE.

FROM THIS DAY ON *THIS* IS MY ONE SHAPE. AND, TO MY EVERLASTING SHAME...



...I LEAVE THIS FIELD OF BATTLE UNSCARRED

THE ONLY GOOD SKRULL

DAN SLOTT AND CHRISTOS N. GAGE

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